



Department of General Services
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners
VIA: Terry L. Shannon, County Administrator *TL5*
FROM: V. Wilson Freeland, Director *wf*
DATE: November 6, 2014
SUBJECT: Approval of Master Plan & Name Selection for Ward Road Property

Background:

The BOCC will be receiving a presentation from the consulting firm of Mahan Rykiel Associates, Inc., on the development of a master plan for recently acquired property on Ward Road in Dunkirk. As a part of this contract, Mahan Rykiel Associates, Inc., are to present to you their recommendations on possible names for this property based on public comments received during this development process. Also involved in the master planning process as members of the Client Committee were Calvert County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and the Battle Creek Nature Education Society. These two groups have been working in cooperation to facilitate the planned development of this unique property. This area will become a one of a kind Recreational area that will combine active, passive and natural resources for recreational opportunities to the citizens of Calvert County.

Discussion:

Public comments on what to name this property were solicited during the master planning process. From these comments the consultant has prepared a list for your review and will be recommending three possible names for you to consider. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Battle Creek Nature Education Society are offering their recommendations as well, which are also based on the public input into a name.

Recommendation/Conclusion:

I recommend the BOCC approve the Master Plan for Ward Road Property in order to proceed to the next step, which is Planning Commission approval. I also recommend that after the presentation, the BOCC consider the proposed names for the Ward Road property, which were presented to you by the consultant, derived from public comments, as well as the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Battle Creek Nature Education Society recommendations and move to formally name the County's newest Park.

Fiscal Impact

None

Attachment



Ward Road Park Master Plan

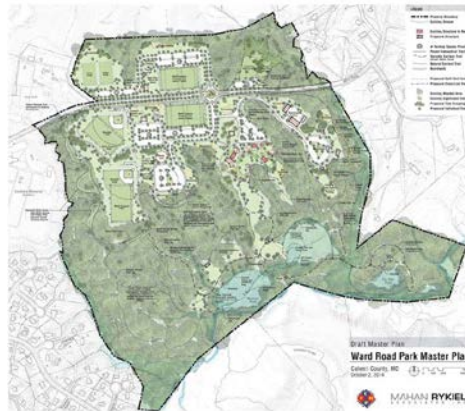
Draft Master Plan Presentation

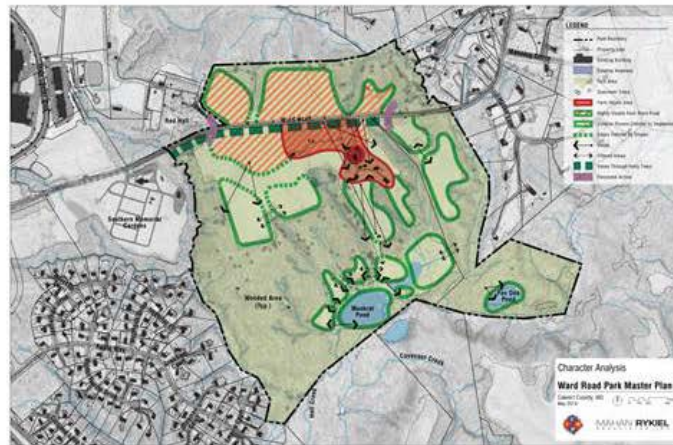
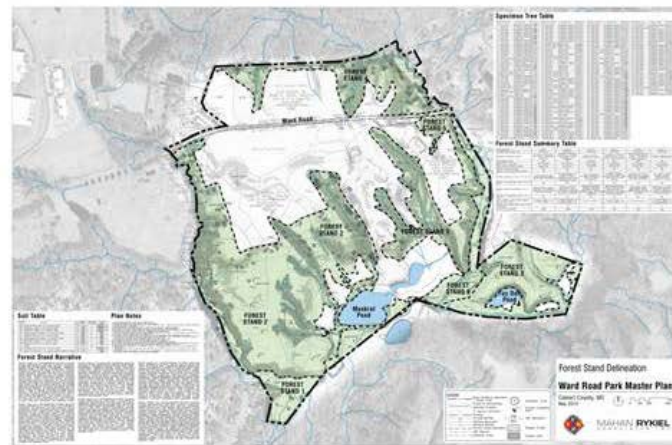
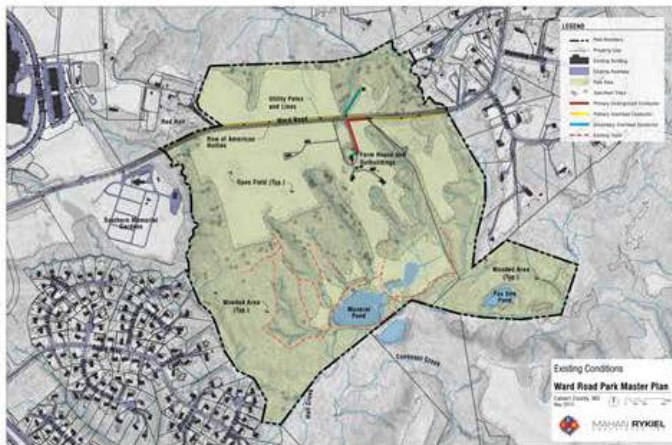
Calvert County Parks and Recreation
Calvert County Natural Resources Division
Mahan Rykiel Associates
Whitman, Requardt and Associates

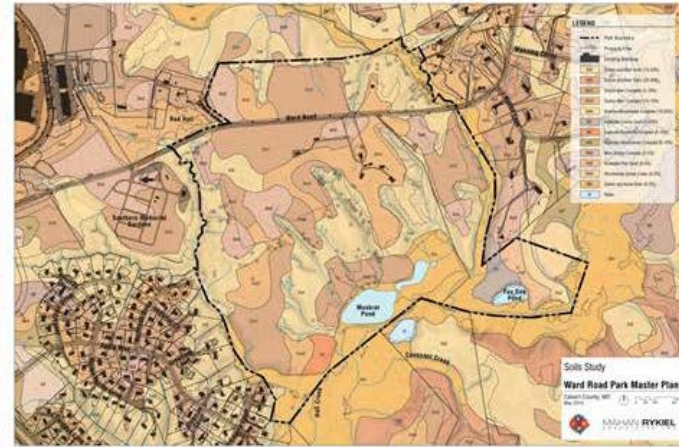
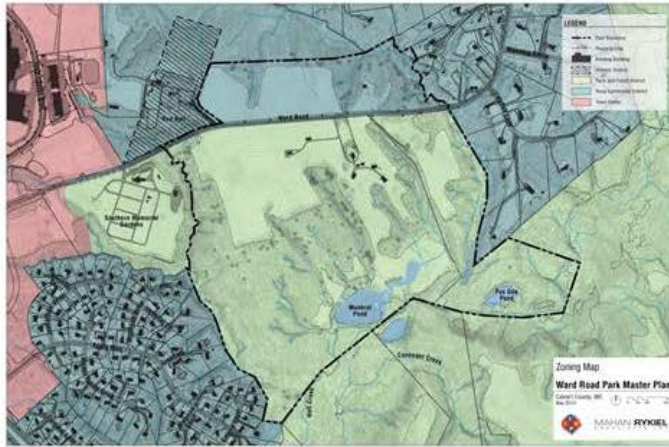
November 18, 2014

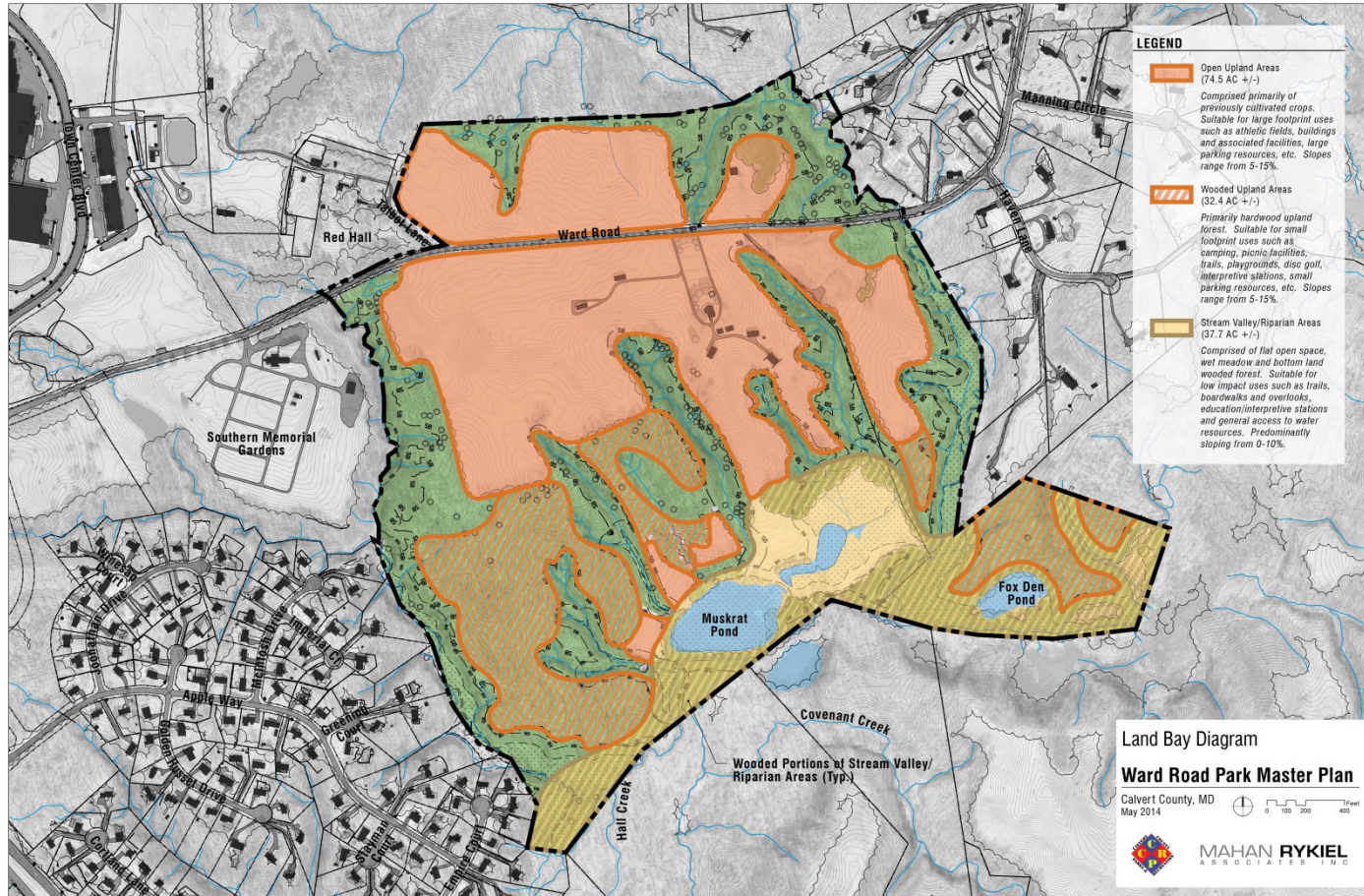
Purpose

- Present the Master Plan for the long term development of our newly acquired park on Ward Road
- Receive approval of the Master Plan in order to proceed to the next step, which is Planning Commission approval
- Approve a name selection for the property









Preliminary Park Program

Primary Park Elements

Large Footprint/Active Uses

One 90' baseball diamond with full size multi-purpose overlay
Minimum 2 full size multi-purpose fields (as many as possible)
Single Jr. fields (as many as possible)
Open field non-sport specific to use for special events, free play

Small Footprint/Active Uses

Multiple small playgrounds/Natural playground(s)
Skate spot
Dog Park
Parking within walking distance of ponds and creek
Bus turnaround and parking (school busses)

Preliminary Park Program

Primary Park Elements

Park Facilities/Structures

Multiple restrooms (including some year-round)

Maintenance Facility

Park Office

Nature/Environmental Center 150 capacity-doesn't need to have self-contained restrooms if other heated restrooms are nearby.

Covered campfire, group program area (approx. 150 people)

Access and Low Impact Program Elements

Wide, paved, measured distance walking path connecting facilities (and around perimeter) suitable for walking, running, biking, skateboarding. Incorporate exercise equipment. Links to nature trails.

Natural surface trails/nature trails

Handicap access to stream or pond

Picnic Shelters/picnic area

Multiple intimate interpretative spaces that accommodate 20-25 children connected via trail

Boardwalks and overlooks at ponds and wetlands

Access to Hall Creek, streams and Fox Den Pond

Fishing pier/boardwalk

Preliminary Park Program

Secondary Park Elements (for Consideration)

A site for a minimum 60,000 square foot indoor facility (non-specific) with parking

Disc golf course

Spray pad

Amphitheater

BMX trails/pump track

Demonstration house/yard to show gardens, rain barrels, energy efficiency, etc., (wildlife friendly design)

Themed nature trails

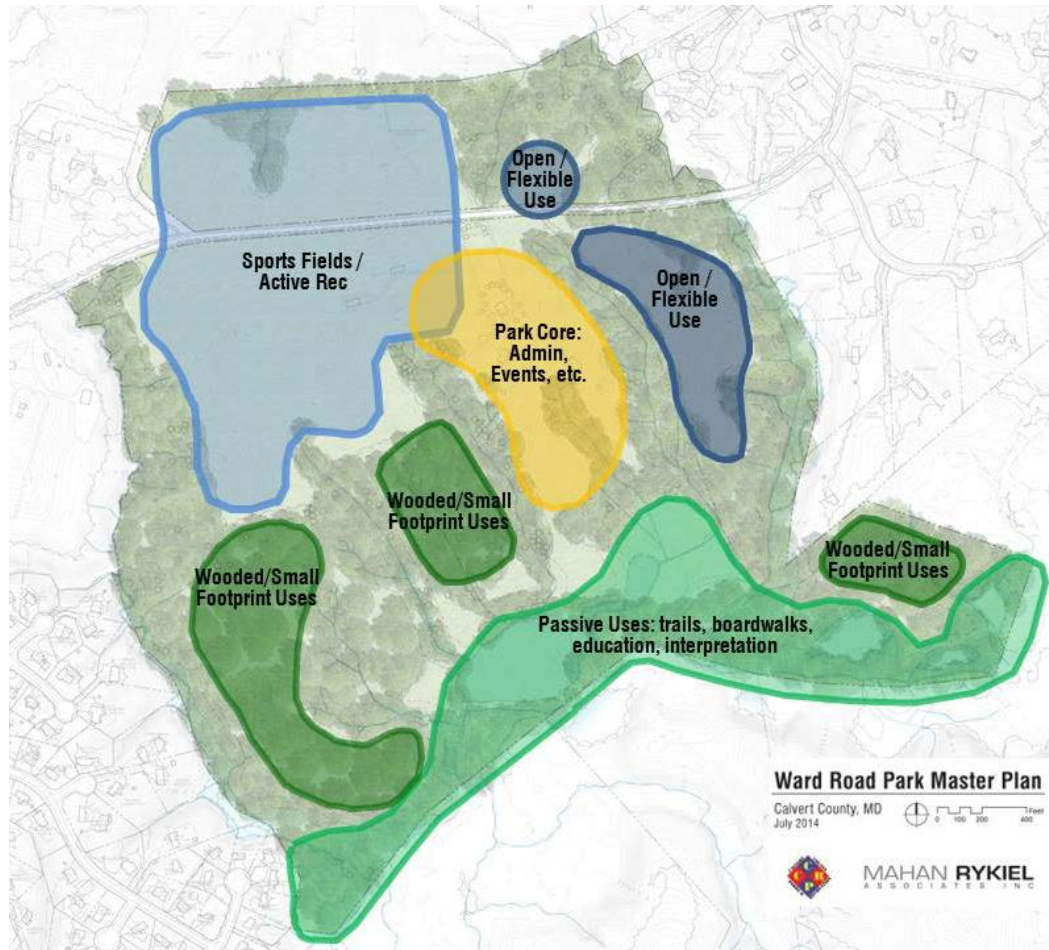
Overnight primitive camping

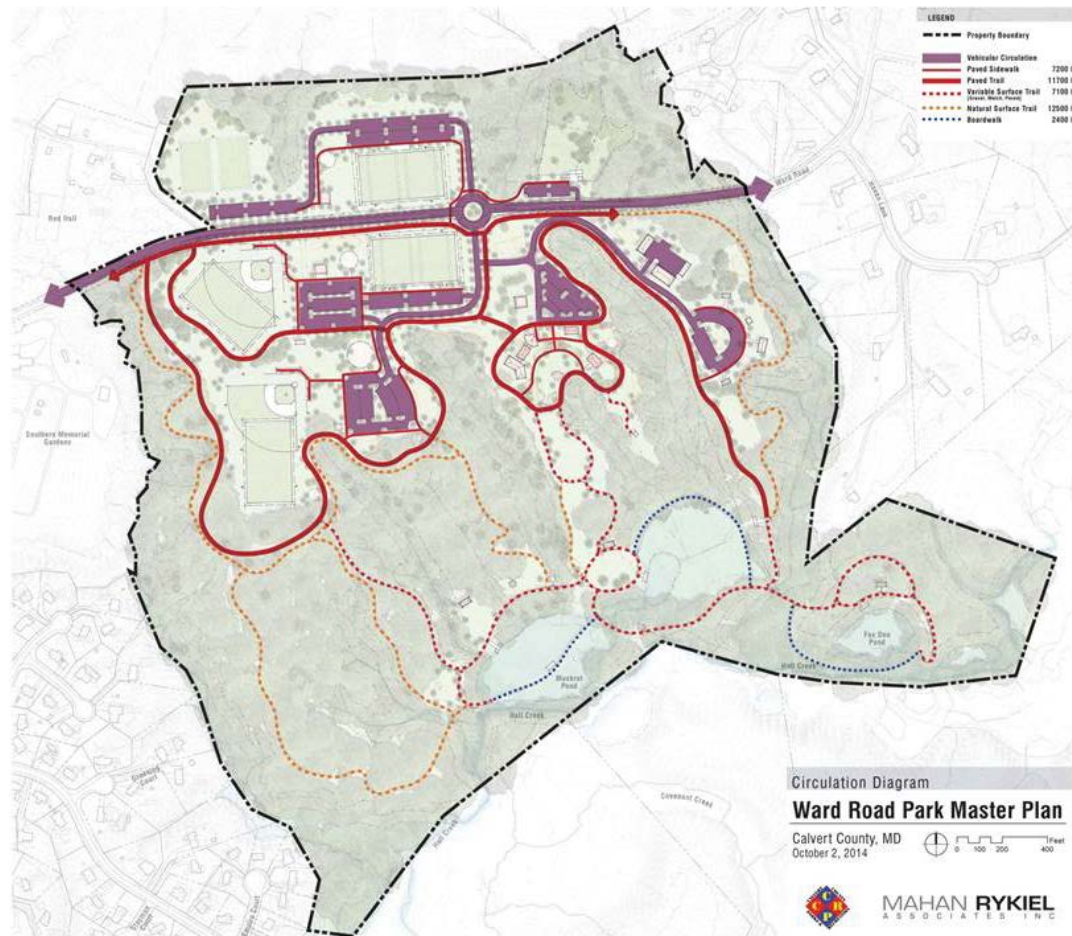
* Tennis

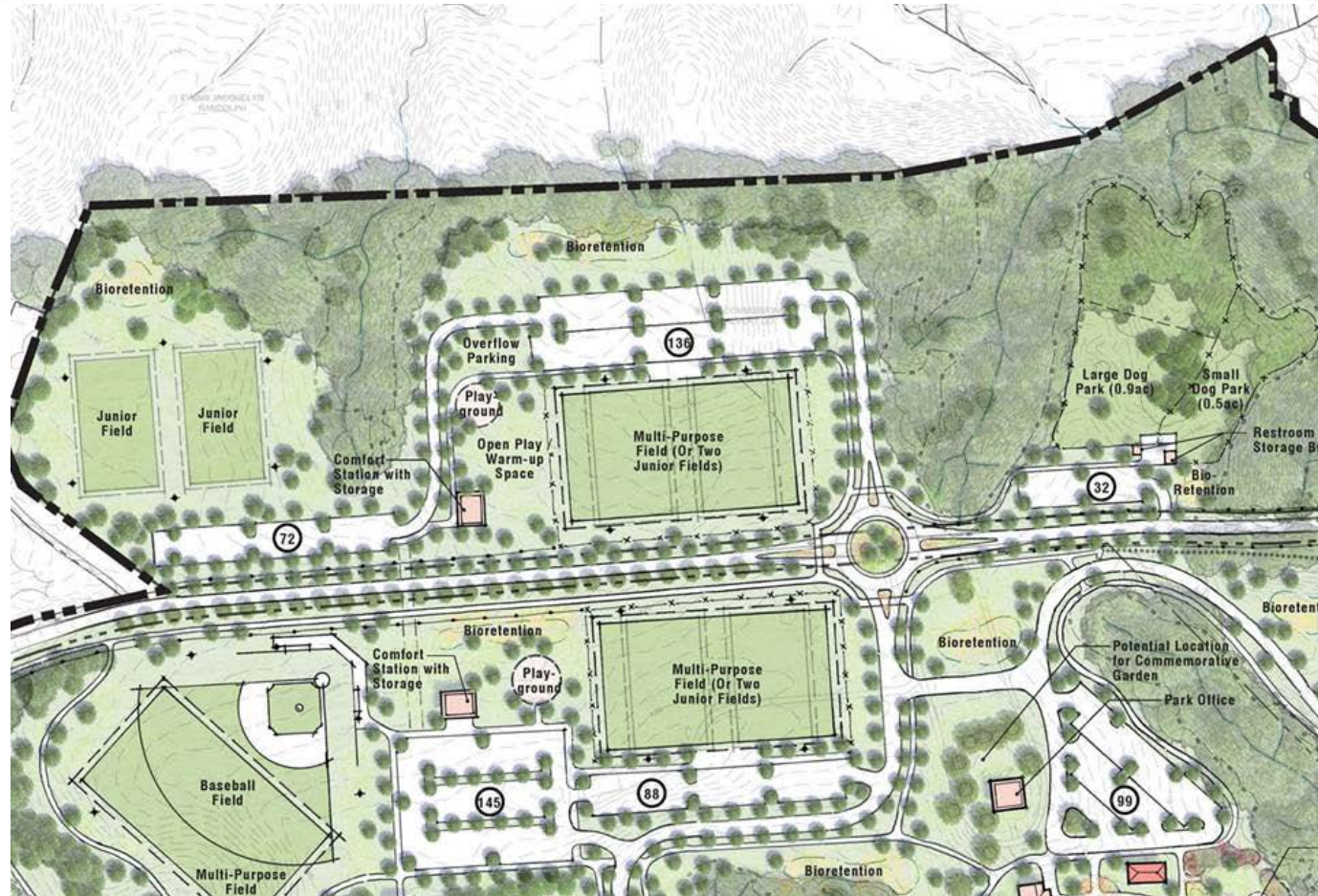
* In-line skating

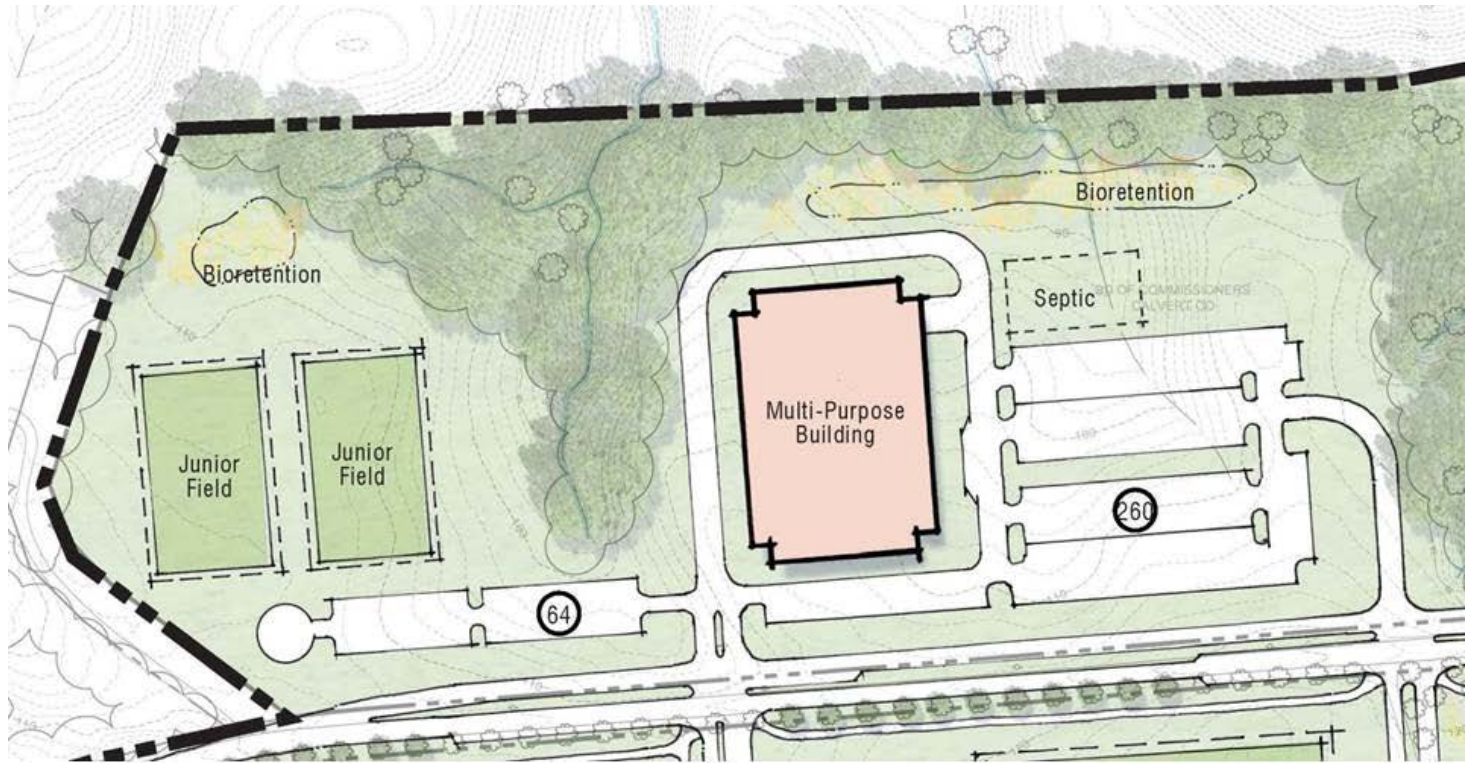
Guiding Principles

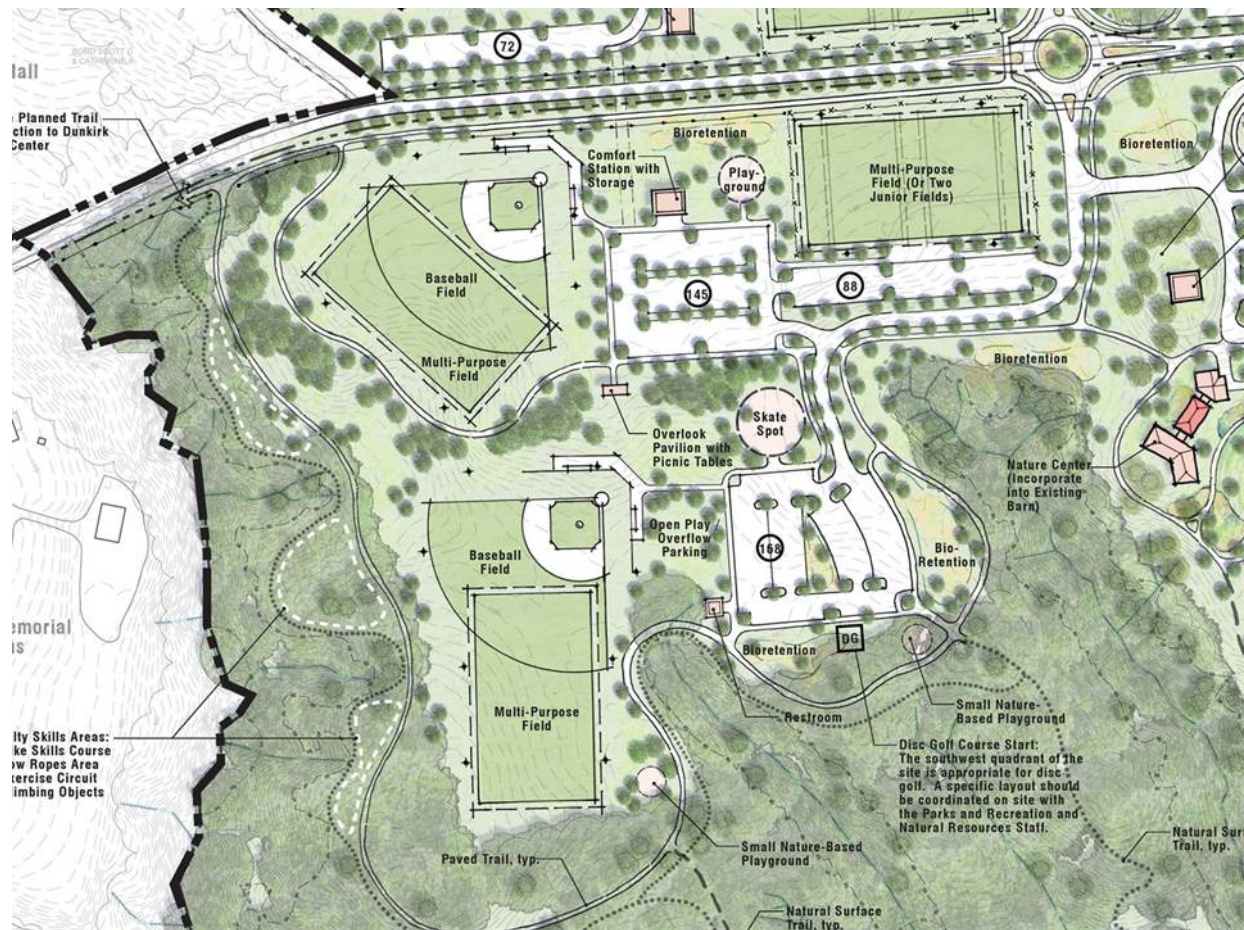
- Recognize that some uses only work in certain areas of the park,
- Access and circulation will establish a framework,
- Endeavour to establish different identities for the active and passive areas of the park,
- Provide sufficient parking as convenient as possible to park uses without allowing it to overwhelm the park experience,
- Provide for multiple trail loops/experiences,
- Maintain flexibility to accommodate future uses,

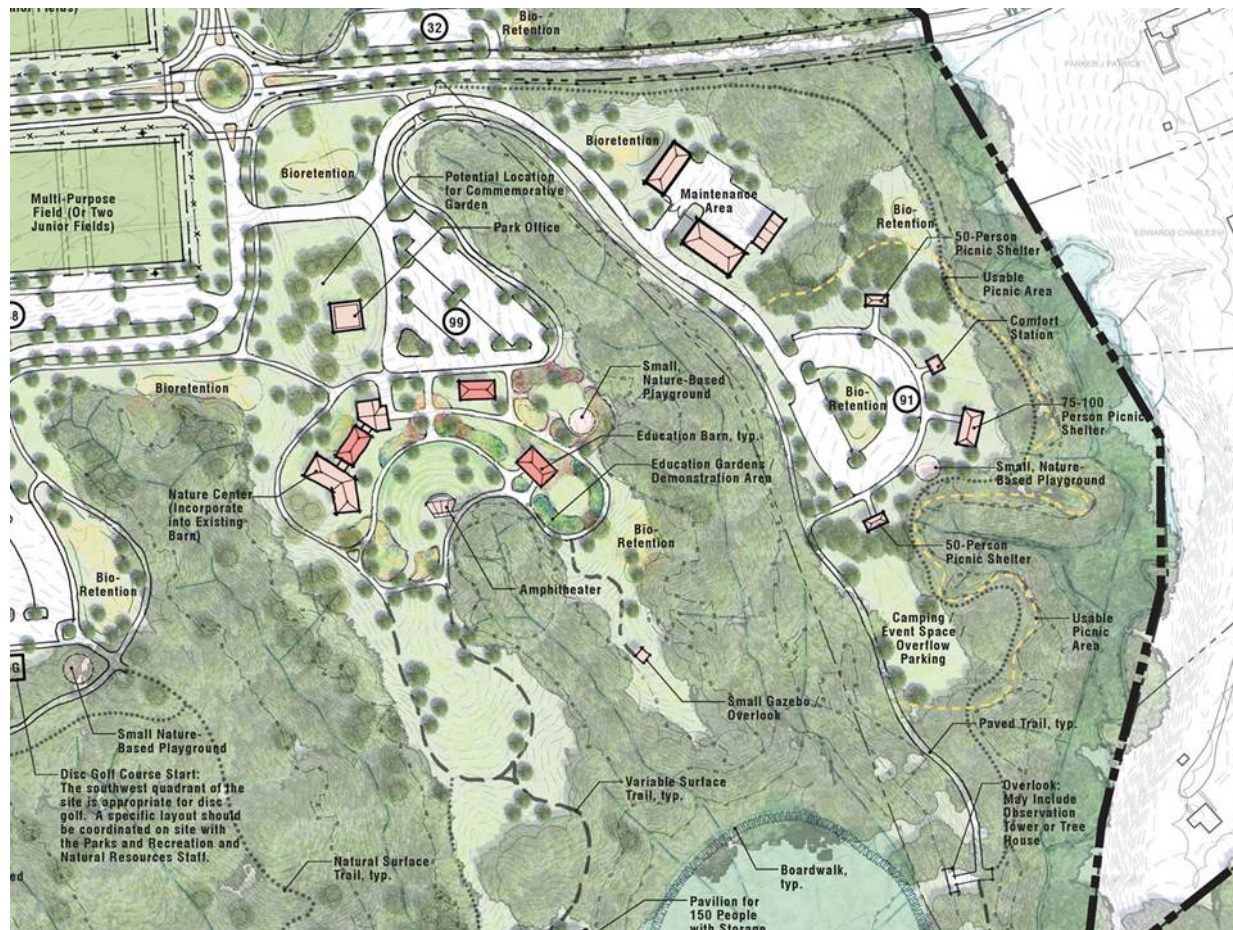


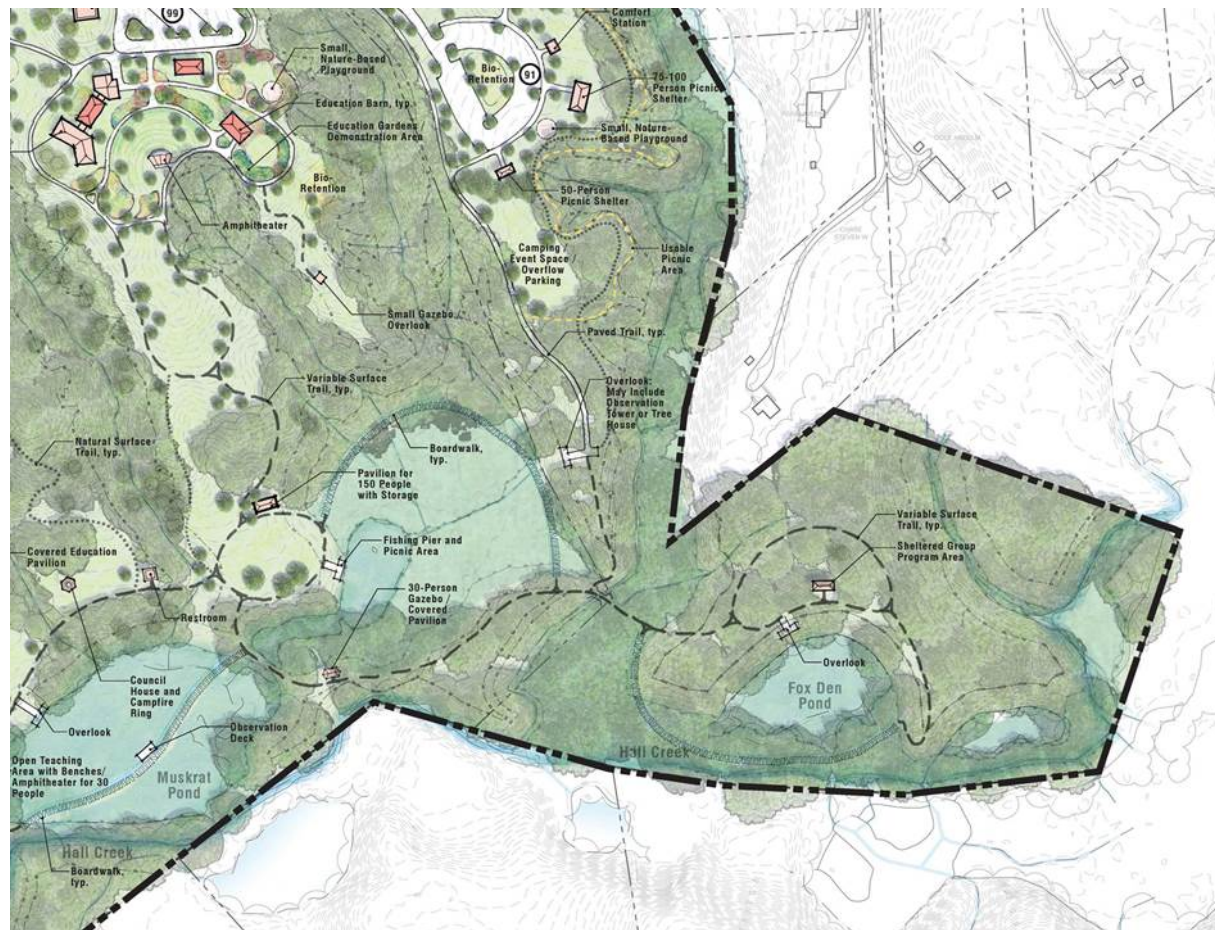


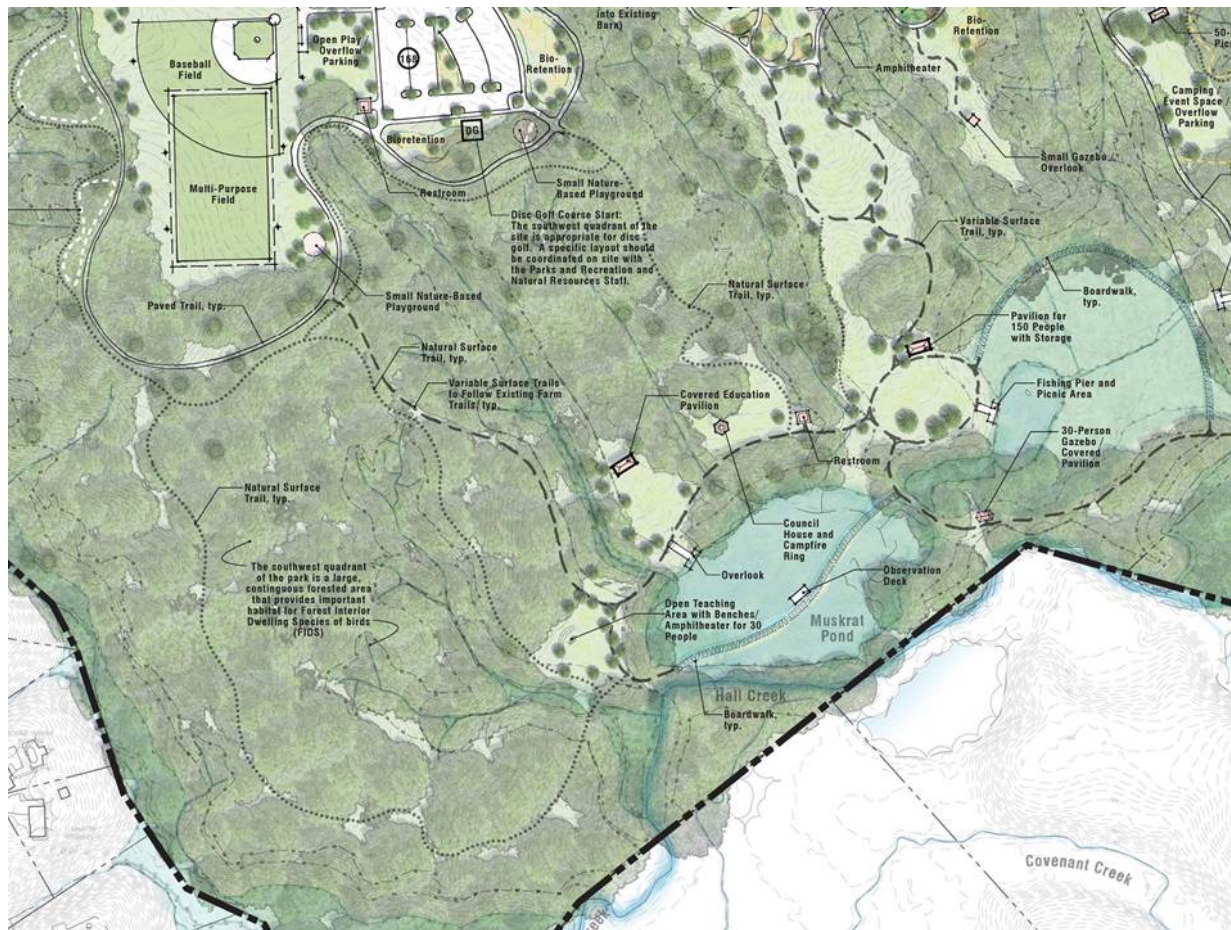


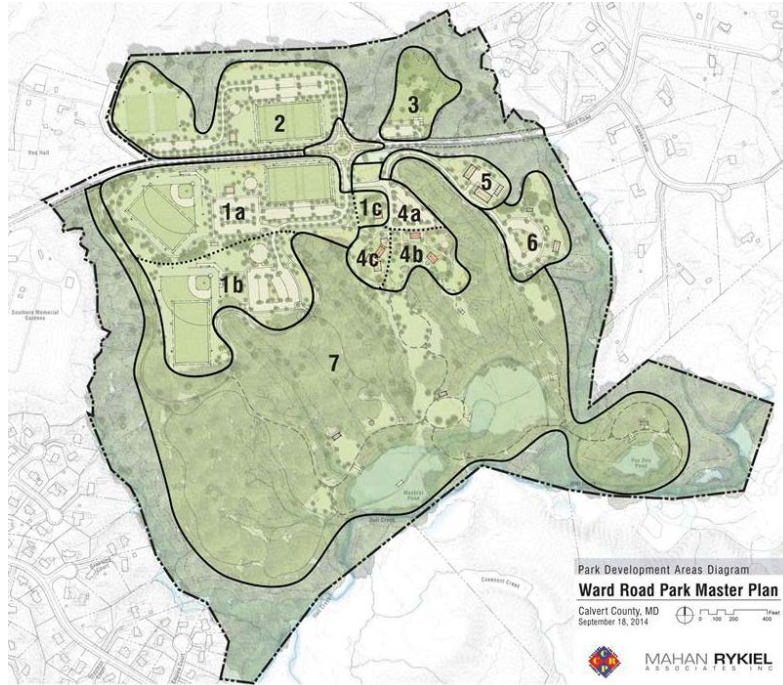












Phase	
Ward Road Improvements	\$ 1,263,808.00
Well and Water Distribution System	\$ 1,237,600.00
Phase 1a - Rec Fields South - Upper Terrace	\$ 5,939,609.80
Phase 1b - Rec Fields South - Lower Terrace	\$ 4,560,450.34
Phase 1c - Existing House Renovation	\$ 150,000.00
Phase 2 - Rec Fields North	\$ 3,764,856.85
Phase 3 - Dog Park	\$ 987,362.13
Phase 4 Nature Center, Parking, and Educational Area	\$ 4,197,524.93
Phase 5 - Maintenance Facility	\$ 2,425,586.80
Phase 6 - Picnic/Camp Area	\$ 1,846,474.93
Phase 7 - Trail System	\$ 2,378,068.62
Total	\$ 28,751,342.42

Park Names

60 survey responses suggesting names in 3 board categories:

- **A local cultural reference**

- The Ward name
(received the most votes)
- Dunkirk
- Red Hall

- **A wildlife reference**

- Turtles
- Eagles

- **A local geographic reference or physical site feature**

- The Chesapeake
- Hall Creek
- The farm itself
- Fox Den Pond/Muskrat Pond
- Meadows and wetlands
- The holly trees along Ward Road

Park Names

The property itself is rich in history, culture, and has unique natural features such that the park name should be a reflection of one or more of those. Also, there are two distinct characters to the uses being proposed for the park. One is defined by active recreation and is made up of sports fields and their associated support needs. The other is passive, and is focused on providing access to the unique natural resources of the property, as well as, the interpretation and education of those resources.

The park name should be one that works for both characters and uses.

Park Names

Suggested Names:

Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

Hall Creek Recreation and Nature Park

Recommendations

- Approve Master Plan for Ward Road Property
- Approve a name selection

Questions

30 September 2014

MEMORANDUM

To: Calvert County Board of County Commissioners

From: Anne Sundermann, Executive Director, Battle Creek Nature Education Society
and
Fran Younger, Chair, Calvert County Board of Parks and Recreation

Re: Naming of Park on Ward Road

Dear Commissioners,

As members of the Client Committee for Ward Road Master Plan representing our respective boards, we took on the task of reviewing the many names offered by Calvert County citizens during the public comment period this summer. We have selected two names for your consideration as the name of the County's newest park:

Hall Creek Recreation and Nature Park, or

Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

The attached documents contain a summary of our reasoning for these recommendations. We would ask that this memo be placed on your agenda as soon as possible but no later than October 21st when the final master plan will be presented to you. We would recommend that the name be chosen by that date so that the park can be addressed by its proper name throughout the final master plan document.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to express our views and for taking our recommendation into consideration. It has been a privilege to serve on this committee.

Sincerely,

Fran Younger
Anne Sundermann

Park on Ward Road Master Plan
Notes and recommendations from meetings between
Anne Sundermann, Executive Director, Battle Creek Nature Education Society
and Fran Younger, Chair, Calvert County Board of Parks and Recreation
September 18, 2014

PARK NAME

The major Recreational Parks in Calvert County include a geographical component in the name (Cove Pt., Hallowing Pt., Dunkirk). The same can be said for the Nature Parks (Flag Ponds, Battle Creek Cypress Swamp). Names, whether a road name or the name of a naturally-occurring physical feature, are easily recognized by the users of these parks. The park on Ward Road is unique in that it serves two types of clients: those seeking traditional recreational activities requiring playing fields, etc., and, people enjoying what comes with a serene, natural setting. With that in mind, suggestions made by Calvert County citizens were reviewed and the following names are proposed as possibilities:

Hall Creek Recreation and Nature Park

Hall Creek is what makes the natural component of the park so special. There are wetlands, ponds, forestland, and meadows that provide wonderful settings for hiking, biking and educational opportunities. This area will receive the minimum amount of change preserving its natural beauty.

Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park

The property sits on **Ward Road** and the farm belonged to the **Ward family**. Most of the recreational area is adjacent to the road, will be the most developed, and receive the heaviest use for recreational activities such as baseball, soccer, skateboarding, etc.

Note: almost half of the suggested names from the public meeting included the word, WARD.

Either name is appropriate.

PARK AMENITIES

It is suggested that other names, such as Fox Den, Eagles Landing, Turtlehead, Three Ponds be used as names for trails, pavilions, or meadows, as appropriate. Incorporating as many of the suitable suggested names the public brought forth is beneficial to the project.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

'Volunteer' was among the name recommendations and the park is the perfect place for a very special component that honors all who volunteer their time, and sometimes risk their lives, for the betterment of the community. The list is long and includes so many who make life in our County safer, enriched, healthier, and happier. To that end, this park provides the perfect setting to publicly acknowledge those special people. There is a prominent, easily accessed, beautiful site within the park that is the ideal place. This area provides an intimate setting for reflection, recognition, and ceremonial observances and would be ideal as a locale to honor volunteer individuals or groups.

Potential names include **The Volunteer Grove** and **Calvert Volunteer Appreciation Commons**.

The following is the list of names suggested by Calvert County citizens who attended the public presentation of the Master Plan for the park on Ward Road. It was from this list of suggestions that the two recommendations were made.

Ward Park (9)
Eagles Landing (4)
Volunteer Park (4)
Ward Road Park (3)
Buddy Halfpap (sp?) Park (3)
Red Hall Fields County Park
Ward Forest and Fields County Park
Fox Den Pond Nature Park
Ward Athletic Fields
Holly Row Athletic Fields and Nature Park
Ward Fields At Dunkirk
Ward Dunkirk Scenic Park
Proud Meadows Park
Hall Creek Road Park
Hall Creek Park
Three Pond Park
Wetland Preserve Park
Discovery Park
Chesapeake Heritage Park
Baycreek Farm Park
Tributary Farmers Park
Chesapeake Farmland Park and Wetlands
Dunkirk Park
Holly Tree Park
Ward Park in Dunkirk
Edwin Ward Volunteer Park
Dunkirk Family Park
Wilbur Ward Park
The Parks at Ward Park
Ward Dunkirk Park
Ward Nature Park and Facilities
Muskrat Park
Ward Holly Park
Ward Memorial Park
Turtlehead Park
Hall Creek Park
Fox Den Park
Ward Road Park Disc Golf Course
Hall Creek Recreation and Nature Park
Ward Farm Park